

University of Massachusetts Amherst
Faculty Senate Rules Committee
Meeting Minutes Jan. 30, 2009
University Club, 8:15 – 10 am

Attendees: Marilyn Billings, Alexandrina Deschamps, Robert Faulkner, Ernest May, John McCarthy (chair), Brian O'Connor, Robert Wilson, Donna Zucker

Faculty Senate Agenda items February 12, 2009

A. Presentation by Budget Planning Task Force members – John will provide a short written report that will be distributed with meeting agendas a week before the meeting.

Budget Planning TF doesn't have the most recent budget information or complete information, including things such as Athletics. It's ambiguous.

B. Special Report of the Nominating Committee for Secretary of the Faculty Senate. Okay. Ernie provided us with a report entitled "Secretary, Faculty Senate (2000 to present) – subcommittee will make recommendation.

C. Special Report of the Graduate Council concerning Supplemental Guidelines for Graduate Certificate Proposals. Okay. We approved guidelines for undergraduates in December. AMC needs to approve the guidelines on Feb 4. It was originally presented to us in September.

D. Special Report of the Research Council concerning Safety and Training Protocols for Visiting Scientists and Scholars. Okay. This work was done in response to NSF and NIH requirements.

E. Special Report of the Research Council concerning Principal and Co-Principal Investigators: Eligibility, Roles, Rights, Responsibilities and Obligations. Okay, timely and excellent.

F. Special Report of the Academic Priorities, Program and Budget, Research and Research Library Councils concerning the creation of a W.E.B. Du Bois Center.

There were questions about funding, any connection with the SBS Labor Studies, and the \$230,000 in salaries. Recommend that Jay Schafer contact Rob to discuss these concerns.

G. Special Report of the Rules Committee concerning a New Honors Designations Proposal. Okay, with minor edits.

Discussion items

A Program revisions

1. M.S. Electrical and Computer Engineering: lead council Grad Council - curriculum revision
2. Undergraduate Degree Programs revision in Natural Resources Conservation - AMC
3. B.S. in Kinesiology change in Degree Credit Requirements - AMC, P & B

Kinesiology take a lot of Bio majors who can't make it through organic. Currently have 300-400 majors at this point, will probably double in size

B. Recap of General Faculty meeting - agenda items for Feb 9

Senate Office needs items by mail within 5 working days; emergency meetings may be held on 24 hrs notice. At some point next week, Chancellor will put forward a proposal for re-org with time for comment. We want to avoid any knee jerk reactions to any proposals. People need time to digest and absorb. Go ahead with agenda items.

Agenda item: if there's a proposal, we should talk with union to seriously consider revision of motions to give everyone a chance to digest - may be better to delay the meeting. The whole idea is to promote discussion of the proposal.

As soon as BATF receives the proposal, they'll certainly discuss, may not come to any consensus. If proposal comes out, we might want to postpone Feb 9.

Faculty want an ad hoc committee to study any proposal. Reorg isn't looked upon favorably by all. There are good reasons for it (Life Sciences) Those who think this is a good idea need to come forward themselves. They could put out a statement. It needs to be pulled across the finish line by faculty in support of this. What about hearing the case for HFA and SBS? Would the Dean of the combined unit have more responsibilities than a Provost? Should be a national search. More discussion ensued.

C. Names for Reorganization TF:

all 9 deans;

9 faculty members

Bob Wilson's example of HT merging with SOM and how it was worked out

Where are the savings when do a merger? Dean, Development, some staff

NSM and NRE - merge

Nursing and Public Health - also

Could the rest happen later?

Creation of College of Life Sciences - or College of Sciences (life, physical, math and computational science)

This portion of the plan would be the north side of campus re-organizing itself.

This wouldn't be accompanied by overt change in south side.

D. Faculty Senate speakers for Spring 2009.

Feb 26 – Laura Giles et al “First Year Experience”

Still have other meetings to decide: March 12, 26, April 9, 23, May 7

Meeting adjourned at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Billings (scribe of the day)